

1. (Twice Amended) A nonwoven fabric which has at least three fiber bundle layers comprising:

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unidirectional reinforcing nonwoven fiber bundles, wherein the directions of the reinforcing nonwoven fiber bundles in the respective nonwoven fiber bundle layers differ between the adjacent layers; and

a thermoplastic resin component that is randomly and partially adhered to the surface of the reinforcing nonwoven fiber bundles in at least one fiber bundle layer, wherein the nonwoven fiber bundle layers are bonded to each other with the thermoplastic resin component.

7. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a nonwoven fabric which has at least three fiber bundle layers comprising unidirectional reinforcing fiber bundles, the method comprised of:

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feeding reinforcing nonwoven fiber bundles together with thermoplastic resin fibers and arranging the reinforcing nonwoven fiber bundles and the thermoplastic resin fibers together in one direction;

placing the resulting bundles together with the thermoplastic resin fibers in parallel to form a nonwoven fiber bundle layer of unidirectional reinforcing fiber bundles together with the thermoplastic resin fibers;

stacking the nonwoven fiber bundle layer with a nonwoven fiber bundle layer of reinforcing nonwoven fiber bundles together with the thermoplastic resin fibers so that the layers are different in directions of the bundles from each other; and

heating and pressing the nonwoven fiber bundle layers stacked in layers to bond the nonwoven fiber bundle layers to each other with the thermoplastic resin fibers.

9. (Amended) A nonwoven fabric, comprising:

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a first nonwoven reinforcing fiber bundle layer having nonwoven reinforcing fibers arranged in a substantially weft direction;

a second nonwoven reinforcing fiber bundle layer having nonwoven reinforcing fibers arranged in a first substantially oblique direction; and

a third nonwoven reinforcing fiber bundle layer having nonwoven reinforcing fibers arranged in a substantially warp direction.

17. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the first nonwoven fiber bundle layer is arranged in a substantially weft direction, the second nonwoven fiber bundle layer is arranged in a first substantially oblique direction, and the third nonwoven fiber bundle layer is arranged in a substantially warp direction.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein additionally, the fourth nonwoven fiber bundle layer is arranged in a second substantially oblique direction, and the second substantially oblique direction is different from said first substantially oblique direction.